

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SCI-06

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R 022016Z AUG 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, JA, US

SUBJECT: CASTOR II ROCKET TECHNOLOGY

FOR SCIATT

1. ON MARCH 5, 1974 THIOKOL CORPORATION REQUESTED APPROVAL OF A PROPOSED MANUFACTURING LICENSE AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THEMSELVES AND NISSAN MOTOR COMPANY OF JAPAN FOR MANUFACTURE OF TX-354-5(CASTOR II) ROCKET MOTORS.

2. THE CASTOR II ROCKET MOTOR IS PART OF THE BASELINE CONFIGURATION FOR THE N VEHICLE COVERED BY THE 1969 SPACE COOPERATION AGREEMENT. THIOKOL HAS AN APPROVED LICENSE FOR SALE OF THESE MOTORS AND HAS SOLD SEVERAL OF THEM TO THE JAPANESE.

3. IN SEPTEMBER 1972, NASDA DIRECTOR SHIMA IN DISCUSSIONS  
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WITH DEPARTMENT REQUESTED TECHNOLOGY OR HARDWARE CONCERNING

THE CASTOR II MOTOR AS ONE OF SIX ITEMS THE GOJ WISHED TO ACQUIRE TO UPGRADE THE N VEHICLE. IN NOVEMBER 1973, PERSUANT TO DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTION (STATE 227252), EMBASSY INFORMED GOJ OFFICIALS THAT USG WOULD BE WILLING TO HELP IN THE UPGRADE OF THE N VEHICLE BUT AS A GENERAL RULE THOSE ITEMS WHICH WERE IN CURRENT PRODUCTION IN THE US WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE IN THE FORM OF HARDWARE RATHER THAN TECHNOLOGY. THIS POSITION WAS AGAIN RESTATED TO AMISHIMA IN MEETINGS HELD IN WASHINGTON IN APRIL 1974.

4. THE DEPARTMENT HAS SENT THE FOLLOWING LETTER TO THIOKOL EXPLAINING ITS INTENTION TO POSTPONE A DECISION ON THEIR REQUEST UNTIL USG HAS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO FURTHER ASSESS THE GOJ PLANS FOR UPGRADING THE N LAUNCH VEHICLE. QUOTE: YOUR LETTER OF MARCH 5, 1974, REQUESTED DEPARTMENT OF STATE APPROVAL OF A PROPOSED MANUFACTURING LICENSE AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THIOKOL CORPORATION AND NISSAN MOTOR COMPANY, LTD. OF JAPAN FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF YOUR TX-354-5 ROCKET MOTOR. AFTER CAREFUL REVIEW WITH THE INTERESTED US GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, THE DEPARTMENT HAS DECIDED THAT A DETERMINATION IN THIS CASE CANNOT BE MADE AT THIS TIME. ONE OF THE REASONS FOR THIS IS THAT CURRENT US GOVERNMENT POLICY IS TO ENCOURAGE SALE OF SPACE HARDWARE AND SERVICES IN PREFERENCE TO THE TRANSFER OF THE TECHNOLOGY AND KNOW-HOW RELATED TO THE PRODUCTION OF SUCH HARDWARE AND SERVICES. IN ADDITION, IN NOVEMBER 1973, THE DEPARTMENT ADVISED THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT, IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF CERTAIN ITEMS INCLUDING THE CASTOR II MOTOR FOR THE IMPROVED JAPANESE LAUNCH VEHICLE PROGRAM, THAT THE US GOVERNMENT WOULD BE WILLING TO LICENSE THE EXPORT OF SUCH EQUIPMENT AND THAT, AS A GENERAL RULE, ANY ITEM WHICH IS IN CURRENT PRODUCTION IN THE UNITED STATES WILL ONLY BE MADE AVAILABLE IN THE FORM OF HARDWARE. FURTHER GOVERNMENTAL DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD IN APRIL THIS YEAR CONCERNING THE AVAILABILITY OF EITHER THE CASTOR II OR CASTOR II-X MOTORS FOR THE IMPROVED N LAUNCH VEHICLE. AT THAT TIME THE US GOVERNMENT REQUESTED ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION AND RESTATED THE PREFERENCE FOR HARDWARE SALES IN LIEU OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER. THEREFORE, CONSISTENT WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESENT POLICY AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE JULY 31, 1969 SPACE COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN, THE DEPARTMENT ANTICIPATES NO PROBLEM LICENSING CASTOR II MOTORS FOR THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT "N" LAUNCH VEHICLE PROGRAM ON A HARDWARE BASIS. IF YOU OR ANY OTHER REPRESENTATIVE OF YOUR FIRM WISH TO DISCUSS THE MATTER IN GREATER DETAIL, DO NOT HESITATE TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE DEPARTMENT. MR. STEVE KOUMANELIS OF MY STAFF IS FAMILIAR

WITH THE CASE. HE CAN BE REACHED ON AREA CODE 703-235-9762.  
SINCERELY YOURS, JOHN W. SIPES UNQUOTE.

5. THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS FOR EMBASSY'S INFORMATION  
AND MAY BE DRAWN UPON IN RESPONSE TO ANY GOJ INQUIRIES.  
PLEASE REPORT SUBSTANCE OF ANY GOJ INQUIRIES. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** boyleja  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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